

Regular Programme of Technical Cooperation

UNECE Activity Report

Capacity Building for Energy Efficiency Market Formation: UNECE Strategic Framework 2010-2011



Energy efficiency is the most effective method of mitigating climate change. This is partly because of the vast potential for energy efficiency improvements to reduce CO₂ emissions that can be implemented quickly, cheaply and reliably. At the same time, this is an attractive option because it allows governments to have a limited but catalytic role in bringing market forces to bear on slowing the growth of greenhouse gas emissions. However, at present, private investors do not often finance energy efficiency projects in many countries because dedicated sources of financing are lacking and local banks are generally unfamiliar with such investments. Another challenge is the lack of knowledge and experience of local experts on how to select and formulate energy efficiency investment projects. The Global Energy Efficiency 21 project (GEE21) has been

launched in 2009 to transfer the valuable experience of UNECE countries in capacity building, policy reforms and investment project finance to the other regions of the world in order to promote self-financing energy efficiency improvements that raise economic productivity, diminish fuel poverty and reduce environment air pollution such as greenhouse gas emissions.

To address these issues, the UNECE Sustainable Energy Division invited participants of UNDAF countries to participate in energy efficiency events including the extended bureau meeting of the group of experts on the GEE21 project aimed at the dissemination of UNECE knowledge and experience on the design and implementation of energy efficiency investment projects. The participants also had extensive consultations with SED staff on sustainable energy programmes and projects. Government officials from Bosnia and Herzegovina (two entities), Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, who are responsible for the strategic planning of energy for sustainable development and for the formulation and implementation of national energy action programmes, participated in the meetings.

The capacity building activity enhanced the policymakers' understanding of the design, promotion and implementation of strategies, policies and measures for energy efficiency and renewable energy market formation. Knowledge of UNECE projects and programmes on energy efficiency, in particular Financing Energy Efficiency Investment (FEEI) Projects and other subprojects of the EE21 Programme, was also shared with participants from four countries. Participants from countries that are not members of the FEEI project (Tajikistan, Uzbekistan) also demonstrated strong interest and motivation to join GEE21 activities. In particular they were very keen to strengthen their own countries' capacities by replicating the existing models of investment projects. The event helped participants to gain a thorough understanding of, and increased their willingness to accept, appropriate UNECE experience on best practices, including the sharing of information and knowledge on regulatory frameworks and policy reforms that encourage investment in energy efficiency and renewable energy for climate change mitigation. Participants made a proposal to expand GEE21 activities and create a comprehensive approach, which targets not only one or two specific subjects of energy efficiency but all issues related to energy efficiency market formation. They recommended that the secretariat expand its efforts on the development of the global strategy on energy efficiency market formation. This effort should not be just one more report filled with global statistical data but rather a comprehensive study with regional analysis of existing experience that could be implemented automatically or should be considered very carefully by countries, taking into account their specificities.

For more information please see http://www-dev.unece.org/energy/se/docs/eneff_gee21_eb1.html

Thematic focus	Venue	Date	Total participants
Sustainable Energy	Geneva	18-19 October 2010	5